INCOMING TELEGRAM **Department of State** 3789 (a)

ACTION COPY

Action Assigned to

38-L TOP SECRET Action Taken

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H Direction to DC/R

FROM: Taipei

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 66, July 23, 8 p.m.

PRIORITY

RMR

SENT DEPARTMENT 66, PRIORITY CINCPAC UNNUMBERED.

During past few weeks Admiral Smoot, General Dean and I have discussed growing restiveness on part of President, Foreign Minister, and high military authorities over checks imposed by US on aerial reconnaissance. As I reported in several recent telegrams, Khrushchev's alleged remarks to Harriman appear to have given impetus to desire to resume CAF reconnaissance. Problem approached climax yesterday when Minister Yu informed Admiral Smoot it may be necessary any time for CAF to initiate aerial reconnaissance covered by fighter escort, with or without US concurrence. Yu also told Admiral US has moral obligation to permit GRC to procure information re reported rocket sites on mainland or get such information for GRC. Problem reached climax this morning when CAF acting A-3 informed General Dean MND had just directed CAF to photograph gun positions on mainland coast opposite Kinmen and airfields in immediate vicinity.

Admiral Smoot, General Dean, General Doan and I discussed this development today, following which it was agreed that Admiral Smoot would see Minister Yu immediately, protest order, and ask its withdrawal, while I would lodge similar protest with Foreign Minister. Admiral Smoot saw Defense Minister about 3 p.m. and obtained assurance from him that order had been rescinded. I called on Foreign Minister at 5:30, recounted developments, pointed out dangers of provoked reconnaissance, including adverse repercussions to GRC interests throughout world, and urged patience pending further consideration of reconnaissance problem. Minister appeared surprised to learn categorical order had been issued by Defense Minister. He said he could assure me GRC would not carry out provocative actions.

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actions.

Comment: In full discussion of this problem at yesterday's country team meeting, consensus was that if authority could be given to use high performance reconnaissance craft already available or soon to be available on Taiwan in selected unescorted reconnaissance, then GRC pressure to carry out escorted reconnaissance would be dissipated. A recommendation to this effect is going forward through military channels with which I concur.

There have been suggestions that GRC's real objective in pressing for aerial reconnaissance with escorts is to send flights over mainland that will provoke air clashes. However, I believe Chinese are genuinely concerned to obtain current intelligence in areas opposite Taiwan and have resorted to actions reported above to test US position on aerial reconnaissance. Best way to deal with problem is to maintain strong line against provocative escorted flights but to permit unescorted flights in hope this will supply GRC and our own requirements.

DRUMRIGHT

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